

Minutes of the 60th meeting of Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of Integrated Regional Office (IRO), Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India, Ranchi, held on 27.03.2023.

The 60th meeting of the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Ranchi was conducted on 27.03.2023 (Monday) in hybrid mode. The following members of the Committee and representatives of User Agencies were present during the meeting:

1.	Shri Santosh Tewari, Deputy Director General Forest (Central), Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Ranchi	Chairperson
2.	Dr. Ashok K. Ghosh, Professors Colony, Sheopuri, P.O. Shastrinagar, Patna – 800023, Bihar	Non-official Member
3.	Shri Sudhir Kumar Sahu, G-18, People's Co-Operative Colony, Kankarbagh, Patna – 800020	Non-official Member
4.	Shri P. Upadhyay, Conservator of Forests (Adm.), O/o PCCF, Jharkhand State Forest Department, Government of Jharkhand.	Special Invitee
5.	Shri Arvinder Singh, Nodal Officer, APCCF (CAMPA) Bihar.	Special Invitee
6	Shri Shashi Shankar, Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central), Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Ranchi.	Member Secretary
7	Shri Ved Prakash Kamboj Member Secretary, Project Screening Committee, Jharkhand	Special Invitee
8	DFO, Rohtas, Sassaram, Bihar	Special Invitee
9	Representative of GAIL India Limited	Special Invitee
10	Representative of NH Division, Gaya	Special Invitee

At the onset, the Member Secretary welcomed the Chairperson and all the members of the Committee and other participants of the meeting. Thereafter, the agenda items were examined and discussed by the committee members, the details of which are as follows:

Agenda Item No.60.1 (Bihar)

Online/ IRO Proposal No: FP/BR/ROAD/46901/2020

Diversion of 41.01 ha forest land in favour of NH Division Gaya for improvement of two Laning with paved shoulder of stretch from Bikramganj–Dawath–Maliyabagh–Nawanagar–Dumraon of NH– 120 (Ch. 201.665 to Ch 245.665), District Rohtas and Buxar in the State of Bihar.

- The Member Secretary presented the background and detailed facts of the proposal along with the examination of the proposal in DSS portal before the Committee and stated that this proposal was previously discussed in the 57th REC meeting but because of the several ambiguities in the online application, this proposal was deferred by the committee members and U/A was asked to mitigate the ambiguities.
- Proposal which was submitted once again by the U/A was re-examined by REC.
- The Committee highlighted the following:
 - i. The committee's suggestion, provided in the 57th REC meeting has not been incorporated by the U/A in full and the ambiguity in respect of 'competent authority certificate', 'employment generation' etc., still remains. As such, the online application needs to be corrected as per the suggestion given by the Committee. Observing the repeated defaults, the Chairperson opined/suggested SFD, Bihar that, if the suggested corrections are not incorporated, in full, in the proposal, IRO may reject the proposal altogether.
 - ii. Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) has been carried out and submitted as per the old rates of the NPV. The CBA needs to be carried out using latest NPV rates and Benefit-Cost (B/C) Ratio, recalculated.
 - iii. Detailed translocation plan has been submitted by the U/A, however, the cost of incurred on translocation has not been considered while computing B/C Ratio. The same should therefore be incorporated in the computation.

Decision of REC:

Due the shortcomings highlighted above, the Committee deferred the proposal till the required correction of entries in online application is incorporated by the U/A.

Agenda Item No.60.2 (Jharkhand)

Online/ IRO Proposal No: FP/JH/Pipeline/152290/2022

Diversion of 8.3618 ha forest land in favour of GAIL India Limited for Tie-in Connectivity of ONGC Bokaro CBM Field into JHBDPL Network of GAIL, District-Bokaro in the state of Jharkhand.

- The Member Secretary explained the detailed facts of the proposal of laying pipeline for transportation of Coal Bed Methane gas along with the examination of the proposal in DSS portal before the Committee.
- The Committee listened to both, the submission of the Member Secretary and the presentation made by the representative of the U/A. The Committee highlighted the following points:
 - i. Since, in absence of the pipeline, the methane gas, presently being produced from Coal Bed Methane project/wells is forced to be flared, resulting in loss of such vital resources. As such, there is an urgency for taking up this economically as well as environmentally important project, on priority.
 - ii. The employment generation part of the proposal needs to be rechecked and corrected the user agency.
 - iii. The Committee opined IRO, Ranchi to accord "*in-principle*" approval to the project, once the required correction in respect of the employment generation part is made by the U/A, in the online application.

Decision of REC:

The Committee approved the proposal for "in-principle", once online entry in respect of employment generation is corrected.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by the chair.

Approval conveyed through email on

29/3/2023

Dr. Ashok Ghosh

(Non-Official Member)


(Shashi Shankar)


*AIGF (C) Cum Member Secretary - REC
IRO, MoEF&CC, Ranchi*

Approval conveyed through email on

29/3/2023

S. K. Sahu

(Non-Official Member)


(Santosh Tewari)

*Dy. DGF (C) & Chairman - REC
IRO, MoEF&CC, Ranchi*

Copy to:

1. The Addl. Chief Secretary, Environment, Forests & Climate Change Department, Government of Bihar/Jharkhand.
2. The PCCF (HoFF), Forests, Environment & Climate Change Department, Government of Bihar/Jharkhand.
3. Nodal Officer (FC), Bihar/Jharkhand.